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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Appl. No. : 10/046,346 (Confirmation No. 2872)
Applicants : Sumakeris *et al.*
Filed : October 26, 2001
Art Unit : 2832
Examiner : Gene M. Munson Date: May 12, 2004
Docket No. : 5000.221
Customer No. : 21176

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This responds to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2003 (Paper No. 13). The undersigned attorney appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and responds hercin to the issues presented. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is attached following page 12 of this paper.